



Kari Stai

Yesper and Noper
and the empty room

Samlaget
Oslo 2014



This is Yesper and Noper.
Yesper says 'YES' to everything, and Noper says 'NO' to everything.

They're best of friends, and they live together in a tall house.
Yesper lives on the ground floor, and Noper lives on the first floor.
But the attic is all empty.



'We need a housemate,' says Noper.
'YES,' says Yesper. 'What's a housemate?'
'Somebody who can live in the attic,' says Noper.
'YES,' replies Yesper. 'You're a clever one, Noper.'
'NO, I'm a very clever one,' says Noper.



At night, Yesper and Noper think it's scary that the attic's empty.



'Do you sleep badly at night too, Noper?' asks Yesper.
'NO,' says Noper. 'I don't sleep a wink.'





The first person they meet is a snowman.
'There's a good housemate for us,' says Noper.
'YES,' says Yesper.



But, the next morning, the housemate's gone.



The second person they meet is an angel.

'There's a good housemate for us,' says Yesper.

'NO. There's an excellent housemate for us,' says Noper.



But, that night, the housemate flies out through the window.



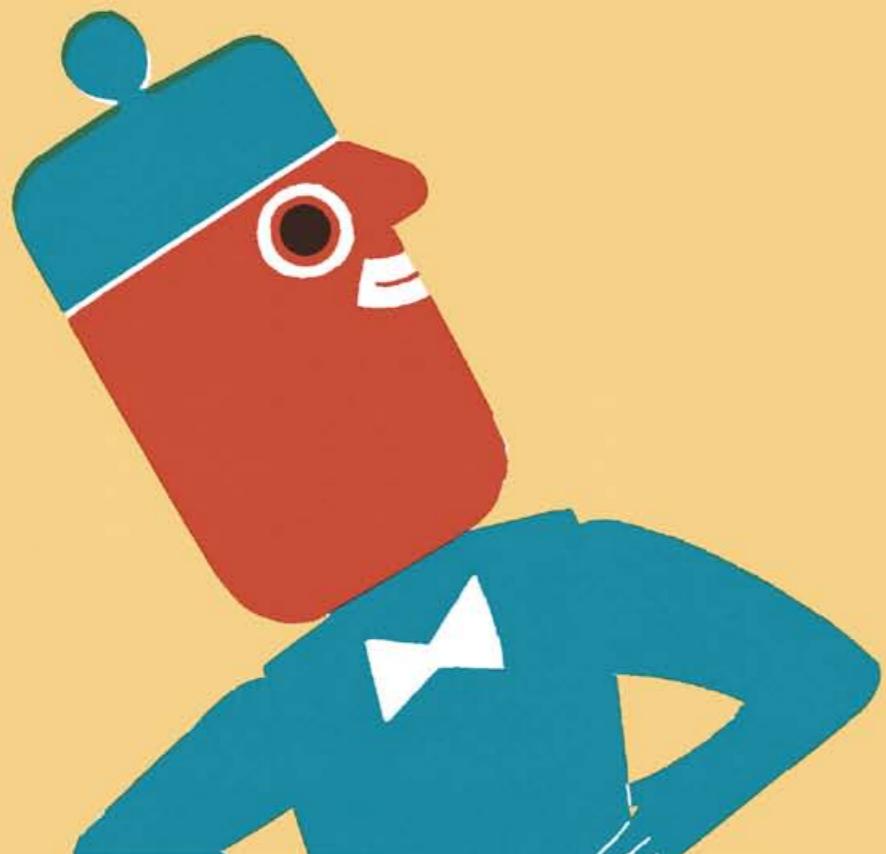
Suddenly, they hear a thumping sound from the roof.
It shoots down through the chimney and stops in the attic.
'Run up and have a look,' says Yesper.
'NO, you have a look,' says Noper.

'YES, I will,' says Yesper. 'But you go first.'

Noper shakes his head.

'Do you want to be the rotten egg?' says Yesper.

'NO,' answers Noper, running up the stairs.





'A bag,' says Yesper.

'NO,' says Noper. 'A sack, full of Christmas presents.'

'YES, for Yesper,' says Yesper.

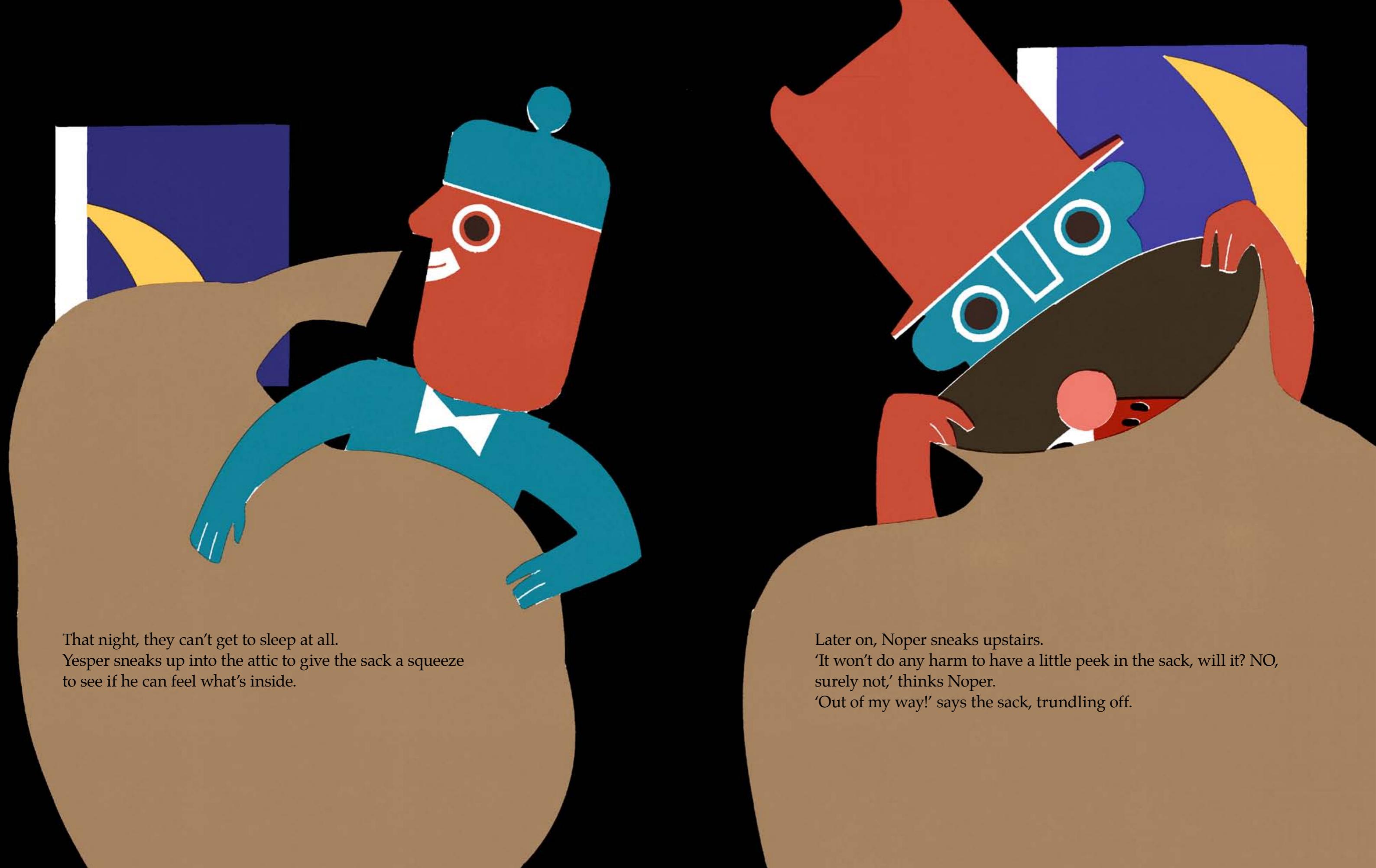
'NO, for Christmas,' says Noper.



'Let's pretend the sack is our housemate,' says Noper.

'YES,' says Yesper. 'There aren't a lot of things that get past you, are there, Noper?'

'NO,' says Noper. 'Just about everything gets past me.'

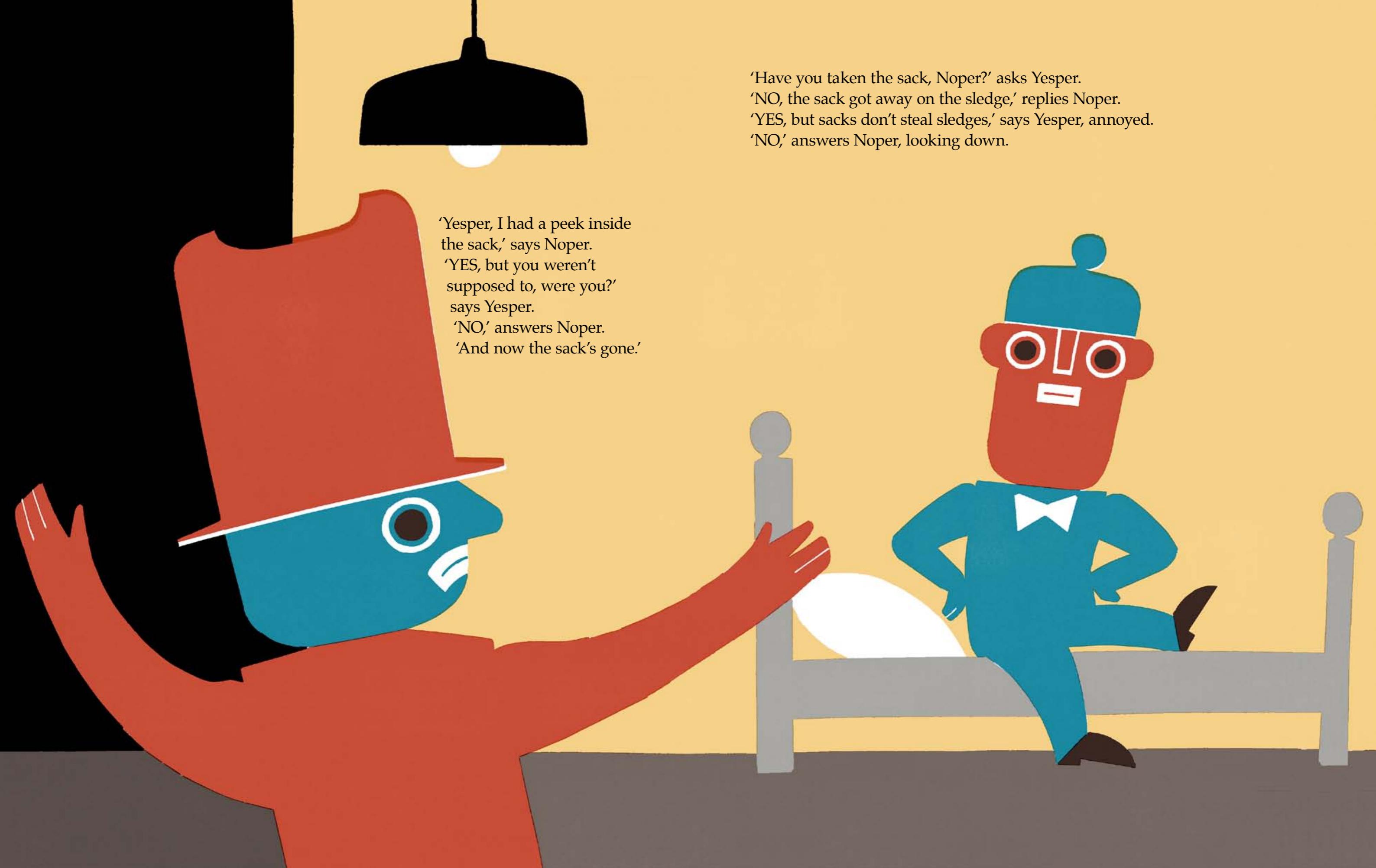


That night, they can't get to sleep at all.
Yesper sneaks up into the attic to give the sack a squeeze
to see if he can feel what's inside.

Later on, Noper sneaks upstairs.
'It won't do any harm to have a little peek in the sack, will it? NO,
surely not,' thinks Noper.
'Out of my way!' says the sack, trundling off.



'NO, don't go. Don't you want to be our housemate?' shouts Noper.
'Well, have you been good this year?' says a voice from the sack.
'NO,' says Noper.

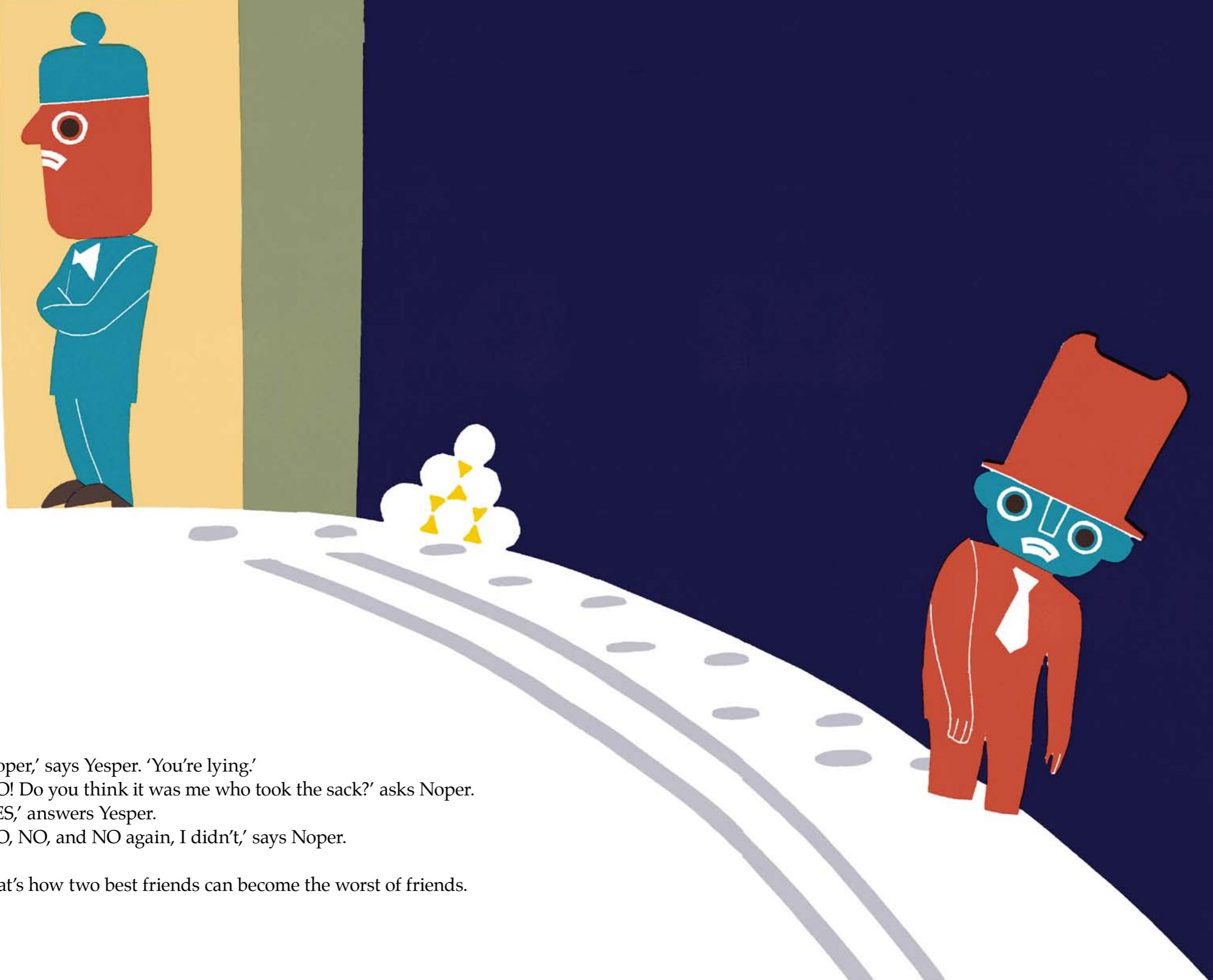


'Have you taken the sack, Noper?' asks Yesper.
'NO, the sack got away on the sledge,' replies Noper.
'YES, but sacks don't steal sledges,' says Yesper, annoyed.
'NO,' answers Noper, looking down.

'Yesper, I had a peek inside
the sack,' says Noper.

'YES, but you weren't
supposed to, were you?'
says Yesper.

'NO,' answers Noper.
'And now the sack's gone.'



'Noper,' says Yesper. 'You're lying.'

'NO! Do you think it was me who took the sack?' asks Noper.

'YES,' answers Yesper.

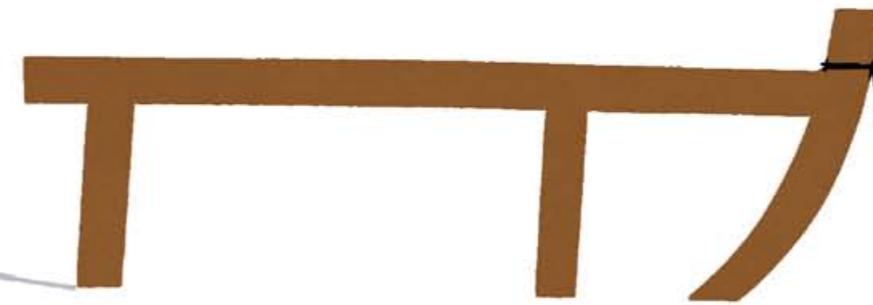
'NO, NO, and NO again, I didn't,' says Noper.

That's how two best friends can become the worst of friends.

'Oh NO, it's so sad being enemies,' Noper says to himself. 'I've got to find that sack.'



'There's the sledge,' says Noper.
'But where's the sack?'



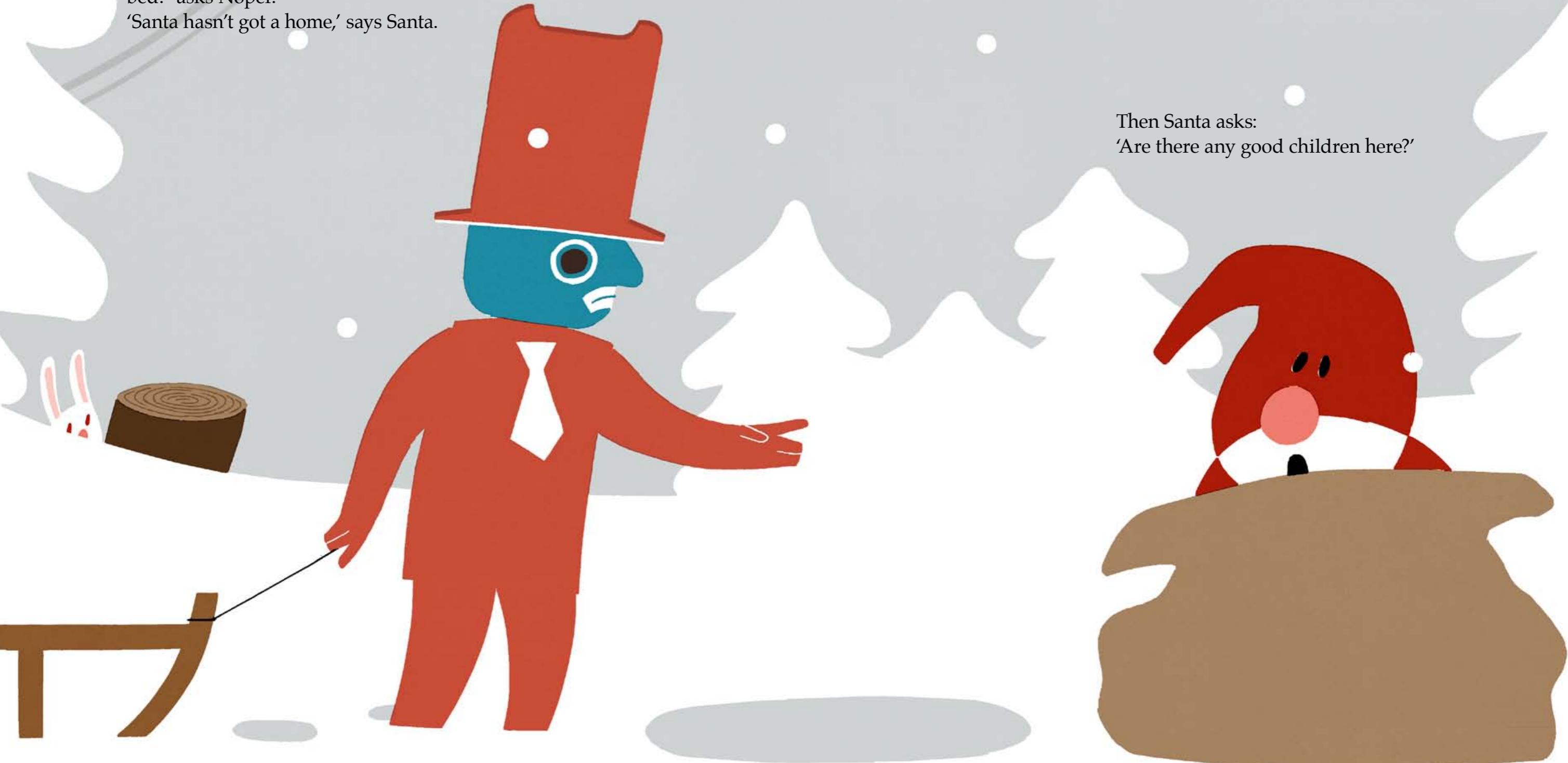
'Santa?' says Noper.

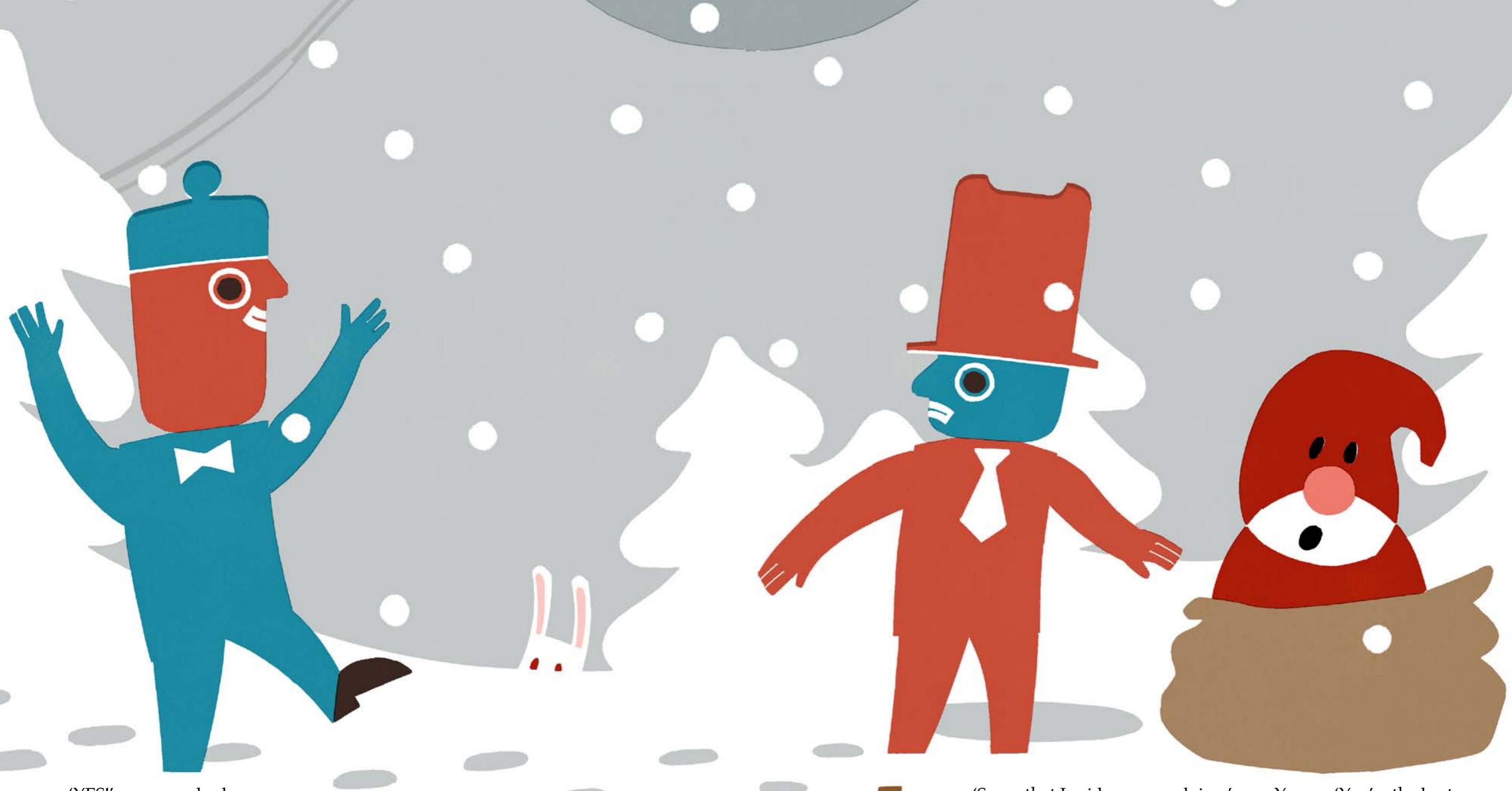
'Santa's sleeping,' Santa grunts. 'Santa's tired.'

'NO, it can't be you! Why aren't you sleeping at home in your bed?' asks Noper.

'Santa hasn't got a home,' says Santa.

Then Santa asks:
'Are there any good children here?'





'YES!' says somebody.

'Yesper!' shouts Noper.

'Noper!' shouts Yesper.

'Sorry that I said you were lying,' says Yesper. 'You're the best friend ever.'

'NO,' says Noper. 'You are, Yesper.'

'YES,' says Yesper.



Then Santa tells Yesper and Noper they can wish for whatever they want.
'We wish for a housemate,' they say together.
'Alright then,' says Santa, getting on the sledge.

'Finally, a housemate,' says Yesper.
'Finally, we'll get a good night's sleep,' says Noper.
'Finally, a room,' says Santa, yawning.



Then the three housemates have a Christmas party in the attic, with a hundred sticky buns and three fizzy drinks. They keep the party going until it's time for bed.

'Good night,' says Yesper.
'Good night,' says Noper.
'Merry Christmas,' says Santa.



© 2014 Det Norske Samlaget
www.samlaget.no

Design: Kari Stai

Boka er sett i Palatino 14/18
Trykk og innbinding: Scangraphic
Printed in Poland

ISBN 978-82-521-8364-1

Takk til Henning Lystad,
Ketil Kolstad og Nord-Trøndelag Teater

Les også:
Jakob og Neikob
Jakob og Neikob – Tjuven slår tilbake

Tilgjengeleg som app:
Jakob og Neikob
Jakob og Neikob – Tjuven slår tilbake
Yesper and Noper

